

The Production of Tuna in the Eastern Pacific,
Hawaiian, and Japanese Pole-and-Line Fisheries

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INTRODUCTION

The catch statistics published by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) (1971) indicate that the total landings of skipjack tuna, Katsuwonus pelamis, yellowfin tuna, Thunnus albacares, albacore, T. alalunga, and bigeye tuna, T. obesus, in the Pacific Ocean by all methods of fishing amounted to an estimated 702,600 metric tons in 1970. It is estimated that of these total landings 243,800 metric tons were made by the pole-and-line fishing method using live bait. The landings by the pole-and-line fisheries represent about 35% of the total landings by all methods of fishing. Thus, in spite of the technological advance made in the purse seine method as practiced in the eastern Pacific Ocean, the harvesting of tunas by the pole-and-line method still remains an important part of the tuna fisheries in the Pacific Ocean.

Of the several pole-and-line fisheries operating in the Pacific Ocean, the fisheries in the eastern Pacific (now dominated by the purse seiners) around the Hawaiian Islands and in Japanese

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